

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

A clean copy of the claims is included in Attachment A herein. The claims have not been amended.

REMARKS

Claims 51-61 are pending in the application and were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,031. The Examiner points out that a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) may be used to overcome the rejection.

In a telephonic interview on January 30, 2002, Examiner T. Nguyen agreed that the above rejection was intended to be over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,536. Thus, it appears that a terminal disclaimer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,536 may be used to overcome any new rejections in the application. Applicant awaits the new rejection after the Examiner has an opportunity to review the error of the Office action. Further, as no other rejections were noted, the application should be in condition for allowance with the filing of a terminal disclaimer. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the above rejection and issuance of a new Office action with an appropriate double patenting rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons, Applicant submits that claims 51-61 are allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Response and Amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Russell C. Scott, Reg. No.: 43,103
Customer Number 020790

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900
Austin, Texas 78701
Tel: (512) 499-6200
Fax: (512) 499-6290